It is, perhaps, the most visible movie production to come to town since the summer of 1992, when Madonna was here filming "Body of Evidence," a fiasco dubbed "excruciatingly incompetent" by critic Roger Ebert.

"The Hunted," however, carries considerably more artistic horsepower. No fewer than four Academy Award winners can be found on the set, starting with director William Friedkin and actor Tommy Lee Jones. And last Sunday night, Oscars were claimed by "best supporting" actor Benicio Del Toro and Gail Ryan, a hairstylist who won for best makeup. Caleb Deschanel,

perfectionist."

—Gail Ryan, hairstylist for "The Hunted"

were trained on images on a film monitor in front of him.

It wasn't a complex shot, a couple of moms walking their kids to the school bus in the rain, consuming maybe 15 or 20 seconds of the film. But Friedkin filmed the scene again and again until he was pleased.

"Working with William Friedkin," Ryan said, "is always a challenge because he's a perfectionist." Ryan brings her skills to the coiffures of stars Del Toro and Connie Nielson, a slightly less daunting assignment than her work on "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole

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p. cuts 70

Newton, Miss., and another Es facility in Portland. The oth plants can turn out the produc more efficiently and at a mo competitive price, Huget said.

Esco, a privately held company, has its headquarters in Portland and has been a fixture on the city's industrial landscape for 88 years. Charles F. Swigert established it as the Electric Steel Foundry Co. in 1913; seven years earlier, the land had been part of the Lewis & Clark Exposition site. Swigert's grandson, Henry T. "Hank" Swigert, 70, is Esco's current chairman.

Esco's main plant at Northwest 25th Avenue and Vaughn Street, one of two production facilities in Portland, is located on the site of the company's original foundry. The second facility, known as Plant 3, is on Northwest Yeon Street and will not be affected by the cutbacks.

The company has about 800 employees in Portland and nearly 3,000 worldwide. The production cutback at the main plant, according to Joe Smith, Esco's general manager of human resources, should in no way be viewed as a harbinger of bigger cutbacks.

"There's no telltale sign here that this is the demise of Esco Portland," Smith said. "Our business is still very solid. We're basically in a flat sales period right

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TRIBUNE PHOTO: L.E. BASKOW

Joe Smith, Esco Corp.'s general manager of human resources, says the company remains "very solid" even though it is cutting about one-third of the work force at its main plant in Northwest Portland.

Tribes play key role in harbor cleanup

Six nations are involved in the Superfund's Willamette River site

BY BEN JACKLET
The Tribune

It's a long way from Portland's industrial waterfront to the Yakama Indian Reservation.

But Randy Settler says the connection between the two places is stronger than most people realize.

Settler, chairman of the Yakama nation's fish and wildlife committee, represents a confederacy of 14 bands of native people, nine of which count the Willamette River among their traditional fishing grounds.

According to Settler, the link between the Yakama people and the river was guaranteed in 1855, when Chief Kamiakin took a break from fishing the Willamette to sign a treaty with the United States government.

The treaty exchanged 12 million acres of Indian land for a reservation in what later became Washington state. It also guaranteed the Yakama people full rights to fish, hunt and gather foods in their "usual and customary" areas — including the area today known as the Portland harbor.

The 10,000-member Yakama nation is the largest of six sovereign nations involved in the federally mandated cleanup of hazardous waste in the river between Swan and Sauvie islands. This will be the first time that so many separate tribes have taken part in a project of the Superfund, the federal Environmental Protection Agency program to clean up hazardous waste sites nationwide.

The six tribes — Siletz, Grand Ronde, Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Yakama — are descended from a diverse set of clans, from the coastal whaling tribes of Northern California to the appaloosa-riding Indians of the Idaho plateaus. While they have not inhabited the lower

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Tribes: Nations join many parties in

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Willamette in many years, they figure they have as much at stake in the river's future as anyone.

"We've never relinquished any title to the Willamette," said Charles Hudson of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. "This is the first Superfund listing in the Columbia Basin, and the tribes want assurances that treaty law is met and treaty resources get the utmost protection."

Hudson said toxins in the Willamette are of particular concern to the tribes. Studies have shown that Columbia River tribes eat nine times as much fish as the national average.

The lamprey eels that tribal members harvest each June near Willamette Falls migrate through the harbor, and because they are a particularly fatty species, they absorb high levels of toxins in their tissue.

A slow start

The inclusion of six sovereign nations in the harbor cleanup undoubtedly will complicate an already complicated situation involving five government agencies and more than 70 potentially responsible property owners and businesses.

The first evidence of a slow start came with the delayed release of the first public document of the Superfund process.

On Feb. 8, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA signed a memorandum of understanding about how they will proceed with the Portland harbor.

The document clarified the roles of DEQ, EPA, three other public agencies and the tribes. It became official once DEQ and EPA signed it, but the agencies wouldn't release it until leaders from all six tribes had signed it.

Nearly two months passed before the EPA made the memorandum public. The agency faxed a copy to The Tribune on Wednesday, and even then the Umatilla tribe had not yet signed it.

Size of Northwest tribes has shrunk, but the

The six American Indian tribes involved in the cleanup of the Portland harbor are spread across the western United States, from Lapwai, Idaho, to Oregon's Lincoln County.

Nez Perce Tribe — Original territory consisted of 17 million acres in and around what is now Idaho. Signed a treaty with the U.S. in 1855, but land disputes led to an uprising under Chief Joseph and the War of 1877. There are 3,100 tribal members today, only 100 of whom speak the ancestral language. Reservation centered in Lapwai, Idaho, consists of more than 784,000 acres, but only 10 percent of the land is owned by tribal members.

Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation — Fourteen bands of people. Original territory included 12 million acres of land in what is today central Washington. Signed a treaty with the United States in 1855 in which they ceded land for fishing and hunting rights. There are 10,000 members today. Reservation covers 1,500 square miles.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs — Culture revolved around the fishing and trading center of Celilo Falls, which was flooded by The Dalles dam. The United States paid the tribe $4 million in 1957 for the loss of ancestral fishing grounds. Today, 4,000 tribal members live on the Warm Springs Reservation, between the Deschutes River and the Oregon Cascades. Own and operate Warm Springs Gaming Casino, Warm Springs For Springs Power Ente

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But Hudson emph lawsuits and treaty c the impetus driving ment of the tribes.

"None of the tribes at this from a litig point," he said. "They aware of their options. mature to be talking suits."

Contact Ben Jacklet a let@portlandtribune.

Wallace Reid, project manager for the EPA, allows that involving the tribes from the start may create more complexities up front, but it should keep the entire process from getting stalled in the future.

"There's no doubt that in the initial stages, it's more complex because there are more discussions you need to have and more parties you need to consult with," he said. "But I believe that the payoff at the end of the process will be significant."

For example, Reid said, a legal claim involving threatened fish or treaty rights could effectively stall the whole process and force the EPA to start it over.

Besides, as Hudson, Settler and other tribal representatives point out, it isn't just good policy to include the tribes from the beginning. It's a legal requirement based on agreements upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tribes forced issue

The tribes lobbied hard for a Superfund listing in the Portland harbor because their treaties are with the federal government and not the state. In fact, as Settler points out, their treaties precede Oregon statehood.

They achieved more success in their lobbying efforts than did Gov. John Kitzhaber and Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

Kim Cox, the DEQ's project coordinator for the Portland harbor, said the determination of the tribes to gain federal control of the cleanup was "one of the huge reasons, if not the reason," that Oregon's top politicians failed in their campaign to keep state control over the harbor cleanup.

As a "resource trustee," each of the tribes now has the right to bring a claim for natural resource damages up to three years after the harbor improvement work is finished.

Nations join many parties in cleanup process

Size of Northwest tribes has shrunk, but they are making a comeback

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Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla — Three bands of people who historically occupied more than 6 million acres in the Columbia River plateau. Today a 2,200-member tribe with a 172,000-acre reservation outside of Pendleton, the tribe runs and operates the Wildhorse Casino Resort, the Tmastslikt Cultural Institute and the Mission Creek Subdivision.

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians — A coalition of 27 bands of coastal tribes ranging from northern California to southern Washington. "Terminated" by federal government in 1956, restored to federal recognition in 1977. Current population is 3,000. Own and manage a 3,666-acre reservation in Lincoln County, and the Chinook Winds Casino on the Pacific Coast. Chief assets include timber, and gambling revenues.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde — Twenty bands from western Oregon, the Willamette Valley and northern California. Allotted 60,000 acres after negotiations with the federal government in the 1850s. Land dwindled to nothing over time and tribe was "terminated" by the federal government in 1954. Restored in 1983, it regained more than 9,800 acres of original tribal land in 1988. There are 3,700 tribal members today. Own and manage the Spirit Mountain Casino, the biggest tourist attraction in Oregon.

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Had the area not been named a Superfund site, the trustees could file such claims up to only three years after "injury is discovered" — a more nebulous and restrictive legal time frame.

But Hudson emphasized that lawsuits and treaty claims aren't the impetus driving the involvement of the tribes.

"None of the tribes are looking at this from a litigation standpoint," he said. "They're certainly aware of their options, but it's premature to be talking about lawsuits."

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